PH, MF, JimW, GRS, JM

10/13/70

Editor, Physics Today
335 East 45 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Sir,

Lamentably, I think, science has become a handmaiden of government. With the enormous governmental funding of scientific work, this is more understandable than justifiable. One of the results, if I may paraphrase von Clausewitz, is that science has become a continuation of politics by other means.

One of the practitioners of science-into-sycophancy is Dr. Luis W. Alvarez, who includes you in his plans. To the bomb-hiroshima morality of his "science" Alvarez has added literary thievery. He is determined to misuse physics in an effort to breathe life into the cadaver of the Warren Report.

His 1967 effort began with the plagiarism of my first book on this subject, discussed with him by his students. He promptly claimed this (copyrighted) work of two years earlier as his "discovery", gave it to CBS, which immediately duplicated his claim and his plagiarism, the result being an abuse of science before one of the world's largest audiences. And, of course, the deception of this large audience, for political purposes. On page 14 of what, after contraction, is to be submitted to you, the size of this audience is estimated at 30,000,000 people. And on page 23 of this draft, prepared by one of the students who discussed my published work with Alvarez, the claim that this so-called "jiggle theory" originates with him is repeated ("which Dr. Alvarez found and attributed to a shot"). This is cribbed from page 47 of my WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT. If Alvarez proved anything with his misinterpretations of the shaking of the camera with which Abraham Zapruder photographed the assassination of John F. Kennedy, it must be one of two things:

There was a single assassin who used a machinegun, or
There were a large number of assassins.

Quite openly, the current Alvarez operation intends to use you to gain extensive attention for this newest prostitution of science, its despicable rewiting of history and evidence of the assassination of a President:

"We expect that the Physics Today article will be picked up by the press."

Or, you are the means to a dishonest, propaganda end.

These are not idle words, for the entire concept of the so-called "tests" is devoid of scientific interest or concern. It is, and is deliberately, out of context. This is both inherent and explicit, as (page 7), "It should be emphasized that we did not attempt to simulate the conditions of the assassination." This rather considerable understatement is one of the few truths in the paper.

This "science" does more than ignore the well-known medical evidence. Here the Warren Commission alleges a shot from a steeply downward angle, to the head still attached to the President's living body, the "test" is at an undescribed, contrived upward angle. Where the alleged assassination weapon was the medium-velocity, light-weight 6.75 caliber, the "duplication" was with a much heavier .30-06 weapon that fires a heavier, faster projectile. The head is duplicated by a melon! The melon is entirely undescribed, as to size, condition of ripeness, character of skin and, of course, the attachment to them neck is avoided. There is no duplication of the bone in the head and the disqualifying duplication of the skin is tape, wrapped around the melon.

Selection of a melon was not at all accidental or without special "science". Earlier tests, employing the standard duplication of gelatin for human tissue, proved the exact opposite of Alvarez' preconception. Thus, the selection of melons!

And thus "physics" will be used to "prove", in a vacuum, according to the Alvarez crew, that a shot to the back of a human head will drive that head backward, with great violence. They pretend this to be pure science, to have no connection with the assassination of the President, but they do not hide their certain knowledge that despite this transparent attempt to hide the ugly nakedness, their work will be interpreted as confirmation by physics of the validity of the Warren Report.

At least one of the students, whose future and career is inextricably linked with Alvarez (he is candidate for a doctorate in physics) claims to be out of sympathy with the misuse he recognizes will be made of this "study", for which he, in large part, is reponsible. He also disclaims responsibility for the concept ("...our experimental tests of a hypothesis by L.A.A", that is, Alvarez). This is, at best, the most dubious ethics.

The timing of the Alvarez attempts to validate the Warren Report is significant. In the first case, where he began with a literary theft, that official fiction was under severe test from the first two of my books, several that followed mine, and extensive and expressed public doubt. These things led to a concerted campaign, launched simultaneously, in which Alvarez figured prominently. In a single week there was this unprecedented, four-part CBS series, each in an hour of prime time, an NBC special, and the largest single work in the history of the Associated Press. The first and last also were commenced at about the same time. The current effort coincides with federal distress over suits to obtain suppressed evidence relating to the assassinations. I have already won the first and have filed two more in what will be a series of legal tests of this incredible suppression of the official evidence. One may be of special interest to you. It is for the results of the spectrography.

My purposes in writing are to inform you of the use (I think misuse) planned for your publication and, if you do intend to publish this flat-world "science", to request equal and simultaneous space for analysis of what you will be given. Here I think you should understand that your readers will not be put in a position to evaluate this "sicence", these "tests". You are to be given the summary conclusions. The draft is 32 typed pages long. It will be cleansed, with the benefit of advance critical comment already solicited from experts on the deficiencies of the official investigation. Clever people, these fairies-and-needles boys! So, my purposes are to protect you, your readers, and what I trust has not become a relic of the past, the national integrity.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg